

Remarks:

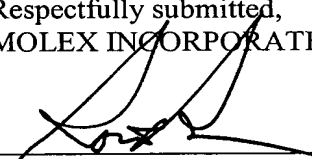
Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duran (U.S. Patent No. 6,688,780).

In response to the Examiner's rejections, claims 1, 9 and 18 have been amended to eliminate the word "multiple". However, Applicants respectfully assert that forming the part from a single piece of metal would eliminate the need for joining multiple pieces of metal, which every other manufacturer did at the time the present application was filed.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the instant case is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,
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